

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 DRC-01

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R 240919Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5332

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11993

FOL TEL FROM AMCONSUL UDORN DATED JUL 23 SENT ACTION BANGKOK
REPEATED FOR UR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 169

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, TH

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHEAST

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 22 UDORN GOVERNOR ANEK SITTHIPRASAT
AND OFFICIALS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION OF
THAILAND (IFCT) CHARIED A SEMINAR ON INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE NORTHEAST. GOVERNOR STATED THAT PURPOSE OF SEMINAR
WAS TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE NORTHEAST AND GENERATE JOBS FOR THOSE UNEMPLOYED AS THE
RESULT OF U.S. TROOPS WITHDRAWALS. SEMINAR WAS ATTENDED BY
OVER 300 BUSINESSMEN FROM UDORN, HONG KHAI, NAKHON PHANOM
AND KALASIN PROVINCES. END SUMMARY.

2. IFCT SPOKESMAN DR. PRAYOON KANCHANADON, EXPLAINED THAT
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LOW INTEREST LOANS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BUSINESSMEN

INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN THE NORTHEAST. GOV. ANEK MADE THE POINT TO THE GROUP THAT DESPITE NUMEROUS RTG DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT HAD NOT PROGRESSED VERY FAR IN THE NORTHEAST, AND IT MADE SENSE TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT AS WELL. ANEK ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE TOURIST ORGANIZATION OF THAILAND (TOT) AND ASKED THEM TO SEND A TEAM TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES OF PROMOTING TOURISM IN THE NORTHEAST.

3. MOST OF THE SEMINAR DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND THE POSSIBILITY OF PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES SUCH AS TAPIOCA, SUGAR, SILK AND CATTLE.

4. COMMENT: GOV. ANEK HAS LONG BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT AS A MEANS TO DEVELOPMENT IN THE UDORN AREA AND HE APPEARS TO HAVE CONVINCED SOME BANGKOK OFFICIALS THAT HIS IDEAS ARE WORTH SUPPORTING. THIS IS ONE OF THE FIRST EXAMPLES WE HAVE SEEN IN THE NORTHEAST OF LONG RANGE PLANNING TO ADJUST TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF U.S. TROOPS "WITHDRAWALS. WHILE WE HAVE TROUBLE ENVISIONING THE NORTHEAST AS A MECCA FOR TOURISTS, STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SUCH AS THE TOUR OF QUANG TRI IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE FACT THAT SOME RTG OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE CONCENTRATING ON THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE NORTHEAST IS ENCOURAGING. PATRICK.

UNQUOTE.
KINTNER

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NNN

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